

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00909 091353Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /072 W
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R 091255Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1693
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 909

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR FEB 8

1. SYRIAN MEDIA LED BY CONTRASTING ARAB READINESS TO
FACILITATE WALDHEIM MISSION WITH ISRAELI "OBSTRUCTION."
DAILIES HEADLINED: "WALDHEIM""THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION
IS THE KEY TO THE SITUATION. ARAB LEADERS ARE AGREED ON
A UNIFIED STAND.' ENEMY FOREIGN MINISTER ATTACKS WALDHEIM'S
MISSION."

2. LEAD ARTICLE REPORTED WALDHEIM'S REMARKS IN BEIRUT THAT
SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON "GRAVE," AND HIS REQUEST THAT
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CONCERNED PARTIES REFRAIN FROM EXACERBATING SITUATION.
ARTICLES ALSO MENTIONED REMARKS WALDHEIM MADE RE ARAB
DESIRE TO RECONVENE GENEVA AND HIS OBSERVATION THAT PALE-
STINIANS ARE "CRUX" OF THE PROBLEM. ARAFAT REPORTEDLY EX-
PRESSED TO WALDHEIM "HIS COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH VIEWPOINTS
OF ARAB LEADERS TO TACKLE FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF PROBLEM."

3. NUMBER OF EDITORIALS EXPRESSED OUTRAGE AT STATEMENTS EMANATING FROM ISRAEL THAT CONTINUED US MEDIATION PREFERABLE TO RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE. SUCH STATEMENTS DEPICTED AS CONTINUATION OF "ISRAELI MANEUVERS" TO AVOID ENGAGING IN REAL SEARCH FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT. EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH ASSERTED THAT ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE "CLOSES THE DOOR IN THE FACE OF ANY INTERNATIONAL EFFORT AND LEAVES IT OPEN TO TWO APPROACHES: EITHER THAT THE WORLD SUCCUMB TO ISRAEL'S WISH AND TO THE SECURITY IT WANTS, AN IMPOSSIBLE MATTER WHICH THE WORLD CANNOT ACCEPT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, OR THE LAST APPROACH BE TAKEN, WHICH IS ARMED CONFLICT."

EDITORIAL ON VISIT FRG FONMIN GENSCHER, WHO DUE ARRIVE EVENING FEB 8, CALLED FOR ENDING "GUILT COMPLEX" WHICH GERMANY HARBORS TOWARD ISRAEL. EDITORIAL STATED, "HE WHO WISHES THAT PEOPLE LIVE PEACEFULLY IN ME MUST CONDEMN ISRAEL'S AGGRESSION AND WORK FOR ESTABLISHING JUST PEACE IN AREA BASED ON UN RESOLUTIONS."

5. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST DISCUSSED PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN BY SARKIS-ASAD TALKS AS A) CONTINUATION ADF MISSION IN SOUTH LEBANON AND REJECTION OF ISRAELI LOGIC CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THESE FORCES FROM AROUND NABATIYAH; B) DETERMINING FUTURE MOVES IN SOUTH LEBANON ON BASIS ON PURELY LEBANESE AND ARAB CONSIDERATIONS; AND C) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO AGREEMENT IRRESPECTIVE OF ANY SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. COLUMNIST URGED THAT PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY FOR LITANI RIVER, BE PUT INTO EFFECT TO ACT AS BARRIER TO "ZIONIST EXPANSION."

MURPHY

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